

NO MORE KINGS, NO MORE WAR—DREAM OF WORLD DEMOCRACY ON WAY TO REALITY

—SAYS CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL

BY CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL

The dream of democracy come true!—the dream that used to seem sometimes so far off and so improbable—come true at last!

No more kings and no more wars!

This world no longer a blood-stained arena for the combats of wild beasts, but life redeemed in it and exalted. The bitter old days of tooth and claw, of grab and gain, of truth upon the scaffold and wrong upon the throne, gone forever and ever—the new day of freedom, equality and decency ready to dawn!

We may see all of these things—we may, indeed we may. If we do see them, then all the splendors that have shown upon this earth will be nothing to that splendor.

For let this magnificent revolution spread from Russia into Germany and from Germany into Austria—let the reactionary element of England keep its moldy fingers off—it is good night to absolutism in this world.

Good night to monarchy, good night to oppression and autocracy everywhere. Yes—and good night to plutocracy!

They are all bound up together, they are all members of the same Old Beast, they were all invented by the same devil, they all go down together as men shake off the evil spell of it.

If the time has come for the death throes of this somber and poisonous monster, there is no end to the prospect of good that opens before the children of men—literally no end!

Always, whenever the torch of democracy is lifted in one country it shines on all countries—it is always so.

Suppose now Germany to awake also—in one month there will not be a king left in all continental Europe!

With Europe all republics the chances of war will be reduced 90 per cent.

Democracies do not make war. The soul of democracy is utterly foreign to war. Monarchies mean war; democracies mean peace.

Every throne is an incessant threat of war; every king exists behind a bulwark of spears.

With the passing of the threat of war that always goes with monarchy there can be universal disarmament—in fact and not in theory.

With the dropping of the sword the mind of man will turn to higher things, the spirit of man will have a new birth, life will ONLY JUST BEGIN upon the earth!

For fear should then begin to cease to be the chief influence in human affairs. With Europe democratic and unarmed, what would there be to fear?

Democracies fear autocracies; they do not fear themselves!

Suspicion, distrust and hatred will begin to fade upon the heels of the grisly shape of fear. For these, too, democracy has no place. Democracy is based upon the essential goodness of the human heart. Democracy is faith, good will, tolerance and friendship. Race-hatred can never long survive where there is absolute democracy.

No, there is no end to the possibilities now at hand. Already we have seen in the emancipation of Russia the greatest day for mankind since the fall of the Bastille. Let this thing spread and we shall see a far greater day than that.

For consider: If Germany revolts and applies to the Hohenzollerns the wise and well-considered treatment the Russians have used upon the almost equally detestable Romanoffs—that will end the war.

Nobody wants to make war on the German PEOPLE; nobody would make war upon them. Reborn into the German republic, with an end to